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BeachHealth Website Returns for Summer 2002

Milwaukee Health Department Partners with Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

MILWAUKEE—The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), in partnership with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, announced today the *BeachHealth* website will remain active and continue through the 2002 summer swimming season. Federal approval of the funding is expected to come in June. Rep. Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee) and Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist support maintaining the website.

“This new technology is helping us meet our goal of being able to alert the public about beach closings on a more timely basis”, said Rep. Richards. “The City of Milwaukee Health Department has played a central role in alerting the public to the public health risk for high bacteria counts at Milwaukee area beaches.”

The *BeachHealth* website, <http://infotrek.er.usgs.gov/pls/beachhealth> will include daily updates on area beach advisories and include advisories from several lakeshore communities from Manitowoc to Kenosha. Last year, the website registered over 2,000 hits. Residents can also find this information by calling (414) 290-2450, message #732 for English, message #739 for Spanish, and message #738 for the Water Quality Tip of the Week.

“This website serves as an important tool for anyone who utilizes Milwaukee area beaches,” said Commissioner Seth Foldy, Milwaukee Health Department. “This system allows anyone to easily check the status of our beaches, with a click of a mouse, making beach safety information available and easily accessible by the public.”

MHD, the Great Lakes Water Institute and the United States Geological Survey will work together to utilize and maintain this website. *BeachHealth* provides real-time information on water quality and weather conditions, including variables, such as wind, water temperature, rainfall and turbidity. Monies from the current project will be used to partly fund this station.

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